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Senate

The Senate met at 9:33 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. This morning's prayer will be given by guest Chaplain Rev. Sharron Dinnie, rector of St. Peter and St. Paul Anglican Church, Spring, South Africa.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy and gracious God, we rejoice in the life You have given us in this new day. As these Senators look to You in seeking to carry out that to which You have called them, we ask that You would guide and strengthen them. Keep them mindful of this country's heritage and help them strive to preserve its integrity. Lead them as they seek to discern that which has outlived its usefulness and appropriateness within the changes of society and give them boldness to work toward changes that will lead to life and growth.

Grant this Senate grace so to align its will with Yours, that through this body, Your vision and purpose for this Nation and for the world may be accomplished. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 22, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. REID thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. GILLIBRAND). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that period of time. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority will control the final 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will turn to executive session to debate the nomination of Denny Chin to be U.S. circuit judge for the Second Circuit. There will be an hour for debate prior to a vote on confirmation of the nomination.

EARTH DAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, today is the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. It is an annual reminder of what we have the power and responsibility to do in our daily lives. It is a call to recommit ourselves to finding the right balance that preserves our larger environment even as we live in it and use it. Earth Day is also an opportunity for us to appreciate the great outdoors, spaces that are nowhere more beautiful than in Nevada.

But today, of course, is not the only day to do this. That is why I am happy to have supported a number of environmental initiatives over the past years to benefit my State and our country: protecting more than 3 million acres of key wildlife habitat as wilderness in the State of Nevada; introducing legislation that created the Great Basin National Park; providing more resources and better management for popular areas such as Red Rock Canyon and Black Rock Desert; enhancing the Carson River corridor and improving management of the Sierra Foothills, and expanding open space opportunities for the people of Carson City.

Right now, I am working with the Nevada congressional delegation to protect the Tahoe Basin from invasive species and devastating wildfires and to restore Lake Tahoe's water clarity and protect threatened species and wildlands. The act will also help protect the area's economy and its 23,000 tourism-related jobs.

Every Nevadan and all Americans should be happy today and use it as a reminder to commit themselves to saving money and reducing pollution by using energy more efficiently.

A Senator from Wisconsin named Gaylord Nelson created Earth Day 40 years ago. He did it after having visited, in his official capacity, a devastating oil spill off the coast of California near Santa Barbara. He came back and said to his staff: We need to do more to protect the environment. Give me some ideas.

The idea started out originally to be a day where they would march, and someone came up with the idea, though, that rather than "birthday," "Earth Day" had a ring to it. That is how Earth Day was born. It came at a time when we didn't have the Internet. It was done mostly by word of mouth.

Just before the first Earth Day, Gaylord Nelson came to the Senate floor and warned:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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